

news & notes

Fall 2007

Inside This Issue:

- Message From the Board President 2
- New Board Members 2
- Miriam Learning Center 3
- Donor Event 4
- Switching Post Exceeds Goal 4
- Fox Family Grant Awarded 5
- Tributes 6
- Volunteer Benefits 7
- Proclamation Awarded 7

Miriam School Announces Survey Results



Students in Room 4 receive instructions on the first day of school from Miss Candi Chiburis. Miss Candi creates a classroom pledge with the children that will guide their behavior throughout the year.

The Miriam School has long emphasized the importance of helping a child socially as well as academically. While we know from test scores and informal parent feedback that our program is successful, we also recognize the importance of having an objective measure of that success.

During the past year, the Miriam School Program Committee has developed a system to measure program outcomes. The committee of staff, parents, board members and educators from the St. Louis area, collaborated with the Saint

Louis University Department of Research Methodology to develop and implement a survey designed to evaluate our school program and transition services.

Divided into two sections, the first part of the survey addressed student success during enrollment at Miriam. The second portion evaluated the success of student transition into their next educational setting.

The parents of the graduating class of 2005-2006 indicated that during their time at the Miriam School:

100% indicated that their children experienced positive feelings about school.

100% witnessed continued growth in their children.

Sample parent responses regarding the most important changes in their child indicated an overwhelmingly positive parent and student experience:

"My child gained an overall sense of well-being, safety and security and more hope for the future."

"Our family's quality of life improved during our child's enrollment at Miriam."

Comments related to transition success included:

"My child was well prepared for the next educational setting."

"He is very happy there. His grades are excellent and he has friends."

"Academically, he was definitely prepared for the curriculum. He had coping skills, special skills and peer interaction background, and he basically just needed reminders to use those interventions that he had already learned."

We found this process and the results very informative and affirming. We look forward to continuing to use these surveys as a way to continually improve and refine our program.

Board of Directors

Officers

President
Anne Tolan

Vice-President of Programs
Carolyn Zacarian

Vice-President of Development
Gretchen G. Davis

Vice-President of Administration/Treasurer
Harry A. Witte

Secretary
Judi Scissors

Chairperson of Switching Post
Linda Estell

Board Members

Roger L. Beaman
Jacquette Bergmann
Christopher Elliott
William J. Florent
Alisa Gordon
Linda Grzyb
Michael Grzyb
Matthew E. Herzberg
Lynda Higbee
Drew Karandjeff
Lawrence Langsam
Steven E. Rosenblum
Barbara Silver
Sandy Washington
Patricia Winchell
Judy Zafft

Executive Director

Andrew Thorp

Miriam Foundation

501 Bacon Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119
Office 314.962.6059
Fax 314.962.0482
www.miriamfoundation.org

A Message From the Board President

Change is afoot at Miriam. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the Miriam Foundation Annual Report will have arrived. This is the first Annual Report issued by Miriam in a long time, and it showcases not only our worthwhile programs and solid financial position but also our new, updated appearance.

A great deal of time and consideration was invested in bringing the Miriam image into the 21st Century. I believe that the colors and photos reflect the commitment to caring and generosity that has been a

hallmark of Miriam for decades.

This new look is carried across all of the Miriam programs, including the new Miriam Learning Center. The first new program of the Miriam Foundation in 50 years, the Center is an example of Miriam's willingness to be responsive to the needs of the community. As a comprehensive program housed at the Miriam School and taking place after school hours, the Center brings our expertise in learning disabilities to the broader St.

Louis area. The Miriam Learning Center consolidates all the services that are the cornerstone of the School and makes them available to help children and families from across our area.

I am so excited and proud to be a part of Miriam during this time in the organization's evolution. The volunteers, staff and board are all working hard to make sure that Miriam is keeping a steady eye on our present while moving toward a very bright future.

~Anne Tolan

Introducing Two New Board Members



From Left to Right: Steve Rosenblum owned and operated Jason's Restaurant in St. Louis for over 35 years. He was also co-owner of a New York themed full service deli located in Plaza Frontenac from 1978-1982.

Steve has served on the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Restaurant Association and has been involved in many local charities such as Matthew Dickey Boys Club and the

Asthma and Allergy Foundation.

Steve currently co-owns L&P Furniture and is a partner in two Cheeseburger Cheeseburger restaurants located in New York and Florida. He is a graduate of the Michigan State University School of Hotel Restaurant and Institutional Management.

Steve has been married for over 32 years to his wife Karla and they have two adult

children who also reside in St. Louis.

Drew Karandjeff, who began his banking career in 1973, retired as CEO and Chairman of Central Banc Systems, Inc. upon its sale in 1991. Drew is currently Board Chair of Industrial Roller Company, Inc.

Drew's community involvements include Board service for the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, SIUE Foundation, RCGA, Coro Foundation, Edgewood Children's Center, the United Way of Greater Saint Louis, and the Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin National Board.

Drew is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University (B.A.), the American Institute of Foreign Trade (B.S.), and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin, and was a participant in Leadership Saint Louis. He is married, has two grown children, and resides with his wife Joni Karandjeff in Clayton.

Miriam Student Makes Giving a Tradition

Two years ago there was a first at Miriam. A very young student—only eight years old at the time—stepped into the School Director's office and asked if he could give his allowance of \$5 to the scholarship campaign. Joan Holland walked him over to the Foundation office so that he could do just that. It was his own idea, and it is a donation that he continues to make.

Even though Jalyn Talley receives tuition assistance, he understands the importance of giving to the best of his ability. Five dollars may not seem like much money to some, but his small gift to the scholarship campaign is just as important as someone else's large gift. No gift is too small.

Jalyn has faced many challenges because of his learning disabilities. The Miriam School continues to teach him the skills and confidence he needs to achieve

success. This has only been possible because of the extensive tuition assistance program provided by the Miriam Foundation.



Jalyn Talley demonstrates to his class how to cook toasted ravioli.

More Miriam School Parent Survey Results

On a Scale of 1 to 5

5=Strongly Agree

1=Strongly Disagree

My child was successful at Miriam 4.89

I was satisfied with services my child received at Miriam 4.89

Our family's quality of life improved at Miriam 4.38

My child is successful in the new educational setting 4.88

My child made appropriate social progress at Miriam 4.25

My child made appropriate academic progress 4.75

100% felt well prepared for the next educational setting

Miriam Learning Center Opens to Success

There are things that parents anticipate and expect when school starts—marathon homework sessions, lost band uniforms, forgotten lunches. However, what happens when a parent is faced with the unexpected; their very bright child is starting to fall behind academically or socially?

Many parents feel lost and want explanations. Without adequate information, parents sometimes blame the child. "Can't the child improve if he or she only works harder?" They also look for deficiencies in the school. "Johnny has a bad teacher this year" or "The school he attends isn't very good." And frequently they also look to themselves as the basis for the discrepancy, "What am I doing as a parent that is failing my child." In actuality, none of these may be the cause. The problem may be related to something the child has had since birth—a learning disability.

Alarmingly, 1 in 59 people within the United States, including four million

school-age children, have a learning disability. This disorder is characterized by a significant difference in a child's achievement in some areas, as compared to his or her overall intelligence. Generally, these children have average or above average intelligence but also have difficulty understanding or using written or spoken language. This in turn affects their ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, and spell or to do math. As children get older, their struggles in school can become even more noticeable if they do not receive the specialized support services they need to succeed.

The Miriam Learning Center is a new venture of the Miriam Foundation and School. The Center is a coordinated and comprehensive after school, evening and weekend educational support program for children ages 4 through 14, who have learning disabilities. The program is ideal for children who wish to remain at their current school but need specialized services and it is also convenient for parents because their child can receive all

of his or her treatment in one location.

The Center offers comprehensive psycho-educational evaluations to identify if a learning disorder exists. This is generally the first step a parent should take when trying to gain a better understanding of their child's learning issues. Certified diagnosticians with over 20 years of experience evaluate each child's capabilities through standardized intelligence and achievement tests. This intensive testing process helps answer many questions concerning a child's future academic and support needs.

The Center also offers occupational and speech/language evaluations and therapy, tutoring, educational consultation, family support and education, and community referral resources.

If you would like further information about learning disabilities or the Miriam Learning Center, please contact Beth Rose, Director, at 314-961-1500.

Friends of Miriam Enjoy Special Event

Advisory Committee

Gladys Barker
 Marcia Broddon
 Sylvia Fishgall
 Julie Frohlichstein
 Margie Frank
 Judy Gall
 Mindee Gall
 Bette Gershman
 Lanie Goldenberg
 E. Bry Lefton
 Lucy Lopata
 Bernice "Sis" Mange
 Bert Melchior
 JoEllen Rubenstein
 Virginia Sharp
 Marlene Zafft

Legacy Society

Anonymous – 2
 *Fred & Elsie Block
 Susan Bower & Stephen Leet
 *Diane Goldsmith-Simon Cohen
 *Kate Cook
 *Stella Freund
 Dr. Ira & Judith Gall
 Thomas & Mindee Gall
 Bernice Garden
 *Sidney Goldenberg
 Judith LaDoux
 Babs Levin
 *Hazel Loewenwarter
 Bernice "Sis" Mange
 *Clarence Mange
 Judy Mange
 Marjorie Reiches
 Mrs. Arthur Silver
 Patti Teper Sherman
 Sanford & Gloria Spitzer
 *Tesse B. Werner

(*denotes deceased members)



There was much to celebrate at the Williams-Sonoma Home store at Plaza Frontenac on the evening of September 4. Nearly 80 Miriam supporters enjoyed catering by Ces & Judy's and a lovely wine selection. It was a perfect night to catch up with old friends and share in Miriam's success. Attendees also received a discount for shopping that evening and a goody bag of Williams-Sonoma merchandise.

Pictured at left: (L-R) Emily Ullman, Bertie Feist, Esther Grand-Jean. Pictured below left: (L-R) Judi Scissors, Milton Goldenberg, Judy Zafft. Pictured below right: (L-R) Linda Estell, Barbara Silver



Donations Are a Win-Win Situation

Items donated to the Miriam Switching Post help a variety of people in many different ways. Through the resale of donated items, the shop **raised \$100,780** in the 2006-2007 fiscal year to support the programs of the Miriam Foundation. This amount is up from \$29,183 raised the previous year.

Miriam Switching Post also helps many other people in many other ways. The shop aided a family, who were victims of a house fire, with items to refurbish a portion of what they lost. A local church sponsoring a family in need received assistance from the shop with items that they needed.

Any donated items that the shop is unable to sell are re-gifted to help others in need.

- Broken jewelry is donated to a ladies church organization that restrings and resells the new jewelry to support a children's group.

- Medical equipment is given to a doctor who furnishes financially challenged patients with these slightly used items.

- Linens that are not resalable are donated to the animals at the St. Louis Zoo and local Humane Societies.

It really is true that a small gift can go a long way. Keep those donations of gently used household items coming to the Switching Post. Donations are always needed and greatly appreciated.



Not only does former Miriam employee, Julie Tietjens, donate to the Switching Post, she is also a regular customer.

Charitable Bequests Benefit Many

When it's time to begin planning your estate, think about the people and institutions that have played a role in your life. If you have supported the Miriam Foundation during your lifetime and you believe in our mission, you also understand that we will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of children far into the future.

How can you provide for the future support of the Miriam Foundation? By including a charitable bequest in your will or revocable trust.

A bequest is easy to arrange. It is not payable until death, so it does not affect your assets or cash flow during your lifetime. It is private—your will is not filed or made public until your death. It is revocable—you can change the provisions in your will or trust at any time until death.

A bequest can deliver a specific gift to the Miriam Foundation: "I bequeath the sum of Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars." Or, it can deliver a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate after taxes, expenses and specific bequests have been paid—what's known as the residue of your estate: "I bequeath

ten percent of the residue of my estate." Generally, giving a percentage of the residue allows for more flexibility in your long-term planning.

A charitable bequest or trust distribution is deductible for federal estate tax purposes, and there is no limit on the deduction your estate can claim. In addition, the gift is usually exempt from state inheritance taxes.

Ways You Can Make Your Bequest

Specific Bequest

Your bequest can deliver a specific dollar amount, asset, or percentage of your estate: "I give all the General Motors stock I own at the time of my death to the Miriam Foundation, 501 Bacon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119 for the benefit of the Miriam Learning Center."

Residual Bequest

Alternately, you can give all or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate after expenses, taxes, and the specific bequests have been paid: "Of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate I give Twenty-Five (25%) Percent to the Miriam Foundation, 501 Bacon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119 for the

benefit of scholarships to the Miriam School."

Contingent Bequest

Finally, your bequest can be payable to the Miriam Foundation if the initial beneficiary is unable to inherit it: "If my nephew does not survive me, is otherwise unable to inherit, or disclaims this bequest, I direct that it be paid to the Miriam Foundation, 501 Bacon Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119 for the benefit of general operating expenses."

How We Can Use Your Bequest

We can use your bequest in two ways. It can be directed to support a specific program at the Miriam Foundation, or you can tell us to apply it to the need that is most pressing at the time we receive it. Since we will likely not receive your bequest until far into the future, its terms should be as general as possible—to avoid benefiting a project that we no longer pursue or terms that will be difficult to meet. We welcome you to contact us if you are considering a bequest for a specific purpose.

This is not professional tax or legal advice. Donors must consult their tax and legal advisors regarding their specific situation.

Fox Family Foundation Awards \$50,000 Grant

The Fox Family Foundation which was established in 1986 by Sam and Marilyn Fox recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Miriam Foundation. The grant will be distributed over five years and used for scholarships for financially needy students attending the Miriam School.

The Miriam Foundation also received a grant of nearly \$10,000 last year that was used to replace the FM Amplification System in all the classrooms. This system is used to amplify the teacher's voice and provide a clear and consistent signal to all students in the room. Benefits of the system include students being able to process instructions, stay on task, and comprehend auditory lessons. In addition, the occupational therapy department was able to replace worn-out and broken equipment that was held together with duct tape because of a \$3,200 grant from Cardinals Care.



Left: Room 7 teacher Abbie Wiesehan uses the FM system daily in her classroom; the microphone hangs around her neck. She is working on a writing lesson with her student Emily Schultz. Bottom left: (L) Samiyah Blake and (R) Aleyah Whitley move through the ball pit as part of their daily routine of occupational therapy. Bottom right: Shawn Grzyb uses a physioball to increase her trunk strength by doing a prone extension exercise called a "superman."



Honors and Memorials Through September 14, 2007

In Memory of

CAROL FLOTKEN

*Vida Fabric (SG)

KATHLEEN FREUND

*Jennifer Gille (MS)

BARRY GOLDSTEIN, MD

*Ira & Judy Gall (JG)

HELEN MILLSTONE

*Ira & Judy Gall (JG)

EDWARD MUCHNICK

Sis Mange (MS)

LESTER RAUSCHER

*James & Maureen Wehner (MS)

SAMUEL ROTHBERG

Juanita Yawitz (MS)

WALTER M. SALSMAN

Arthur Tucker (CS)

SIDNEY SAVAN

Charles & Dorothy Meyerson (MS)

SUE SEASONGOOD

Barbara Silver (MS)

MARTIN STOLAR

*Gladys Barker (SF)
Shirley Bassett (MS)
*Charles Bland (MS)
Charlotte Brown (MS)
*Connie Deschamps (MS)
Bertha Feist (MS)
*Michael & Jessica Friedlander (MS)
Estelle Garden (AG)
Eleanor Gellman (MS)
*Isabel Kaufmann (MS)

Sis Mange (MS)

*Jean & Bud Meyer (MS)

*Charles and Dorothy Meyerson (MS)

*I.E. Millstone (MS)

*Jack & Renee Rosen (MS)

*Alan & Peggy Schaffer (MS)

Marian Wisnev (MS)

HELEN L. WHEELER

*Anonymous (AG)

In Honor of

BERNICE AGATSTEIN

Special Birthday

Marcia Broddon (MS)

GLADYS BARKER

Honor

*Carol Littman (SF)

MORTON BARON

Birthday

*Don & Nancy Steele (MS)

MARTIN AND ANN EPSTEIN

50th Anniversary

*Sam Heyman (MS)

*Jean & Bud Meyer (MS)

Bettye Rosen (MS)

LINDA ESTELLE AND CREW

Honor

*Barbara Silver (MS)

LANIE GOLDENBERG

Special Birthday

*Helen Lanznar (MS)

FLORENCE GOVAN

Granddaughter's Marriage

Juanita Yawitz (MS)

MR. AND MRS. LOUIS MELCHIOR

60th Wedding Anniversary

*Stan & Ann Abrams (MS)

*Arthur & Barbara Silver (MS)

*Morton & Norma Singer (MT)

*Don & Nancy Steele (MS)

BETTYE ROSEN

Special Birthday

*Sam Heyman (MS)

MICHAEL RUBIN

50th Birthday

*Ken & Sharon Weintraub (MS)

MEL SCHNURMAN

Special Birthday

Dorothy & Charles Meyerson (MS)

KATIE SCHWEIZER & TODD WEINHAUS

Engagement

*Tom & Carol Lasker (MS)

ROBERT SIDER

Special Birthday

*Jerome Nuell (TW)

BARBARA SILVER

Honor

*Marilyn Werner (MS)

MARIAN STILLMAN

Special Birthday

*Sam Heyman (MS)

*Dorothy & Charles Meyerson (MS)

MR. & MRS. AUBREY YAWITZ

60th Anniversary

Estelle Garden (CS)

Sis Mange (MS)

Funding Key: Miriam School Tribute Fund (MS), Miriam Cancer Services (CS), General Operating Fund (MT), Annual Giving/Scholarship Campaign (AG), Jeffrey Scott Gall Memorial Scholarship Tribute Fund (JG), Tesse B. Werner Music Fund (TW), Stella M. Freund Educational Equipment Fund (SF), Sidney Goldenberg, M.D. Technology Fund (SG)

Tribute funds provide a continuous source of revenue to the Miriam Foundation's philanthropic projects. A gift of \$10 or more will support the program of your choice. Gifts of \$25 or more are denoted by an asterisk (*). All donations are tax-deductible.

We do our best to recognize donors accurately. If we have made an error, please contact Laura Derickson at 314.962.6059 or lderickson@miriamfoundation.org. Thank you.

Contributions should be made payable to: Miriam Foundation and sent to 501 Bacon Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119

Miriam Learning Center Seeks Founding Sponsors

The Miriam Foundation is seeking individual and organizational financial investment for the establishment of the Miriam Learning Center—an innovative program that will provide multi-disciplinary and coordinated services to help children who have diagnoses of learning disabilities. Gifts of \$25,000 or more received during the first three years of the Miriam Learning Center's operation will be honored as a Founding Sponsor. These donors will receive permanent recognition in our facility.

The Miriam Learning Center will require an initial investment of \$150,000 over three years; \$75,000 in year one funding. This will be applied toward the director's salary, insurance, employee benefit costs and additional diagnostic materials. After the third year of operation, the Center will be sustainable, needing no outside funding beyond what the Center generates through client fees. The Miriam Learning Center will be financed through a fee for service model.

The Miriam Foundation has been applying for grants and has already received initial funding for the Center. The Learning Center was awarded \$30,000 in start-up funding from the Deaconess Foundation Award presented to the Center in April, 2007 as part of the third annual Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition (SEIC) held at Washington University. The Learning Center has also received a \$15,000 grant from The Simon Foundation and a \$5,000 pledge from an individual.

Volunteering Provides Benefits

There are many volunteer opportunities available through Miriam, and the following article provides a very compelling reason to call and volunteer.

Over the past two decades there has been a growing body of research that indicates volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social benefits. This research has established a strong relationship between volunteering and health: those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater

functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

Comparisons of the health benefits of volunteering for different age groups have also shown that older volunteers are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering, whether because they are more likely to face higher incidence of illness or because volunteering provides them with physical and social activity and a sense of purpose at a time when their social

roles are changing. Some of these findings also indicate that volunteers who devote a "considerable" amount of time to volunteer activities (about 100 hours per year) are most likely to exhibit positive health outcomes.

Excerpted from: Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development. The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research, Washington, DC 2007.

Miriam Receives Proclamation



Representative Kathryn Fares of District Number 91 of the Missouri House of Representatives attended the Board meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 and presented an official resolution to "...applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with Miriam School and to convey...congratulations as they celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of their well-respected educational institution..."

Pictured L-R: Andrew Thorp, Kathryn Fares, Joan Holland

Miriam Foundation

Improves the quality of life for children and their families through comprehensive and innovative services.
Call 962.6059 for information.

Miriam School

An independent school serving children pre-K through grade 8 who exhibit learning disabilities, attention deficits, speech and language difficulties and fine/gross motor delays.
Call 968.5225 for information.

Miriam Learning Center

Fee based services that include diagnostics, therapies, tutoring, enrichment programs, and educational counseling for children with learning disabilities.
Call 961.1500 for information.

Miriam Cancer Services

Financial assistance to cancer patients for items that improve their quality of life but are not covered by insurance.
Call 962.6059 for information.

Miriam Switching Post

Resale of antiques, collectibles and gently used furniture.
Call 646.7737 for information.

Miriam Estate Sales

Full range of services from clear-outs to full estate sales.
Call 646.7737 for information.

Visit Our Web Site

www.miriamfoundation.org

miriam

FOUNDATION

501 Bacon Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63119-1512

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 920
St. Louis, MO

The Miriam Foundation improves the quality of life for children and their families through comprehensive and innovative services.

Like the weather...



miriam

SWITCHING POST

2171 S. Big Bend Blvd.
Maplewood, MO 63117
(314) 646-7737

Open Monday - Saturday
10am to 4pm

www.miriamfoundation.org

All proceeds benefit the programs of
The Miriam Foundation.

Where the past supports the future.

our inventory is always changing!

Doing a fall clean sweep? Think of the Miriam Switching Post. We're accepting donations of fine used furniture and household accessories! Call us at (314) 646-7737.